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and there select from the various ways courts or legislatures, permit those facts to be proved, that mode and that witness which will afford his opponent least room for attack, or subject himself to least possibility of disappointment at a critical stage. He is prepared with principles and authorities for any objection to his own evidence, and likewise for any attempt to present evidence to which he is not entitled.

The practical usefulness of the book, especially to the younger members of the profession, can hardly be overestimated. Nor can it fail to meet with even greater commendation from the profession than Mr. Abbott's other brief books, for it is more original, and therefore to a greater extent required in the library of every practising attorney. The Criminal Brief and the Civil Brief treat of the effect of facts when proved in their respective class of case. The Brief of Facts goes a step deeper and considers the *methods of proving these facts* in a court of justice.

T. I. P.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURIES.

By ARCHIBALD ROBINSON WATSON, of the New York City Bar, formerly of the Memphis Bar. The Mictrie Company, Charlottesville, Va. 1901.

Very few books bearing the above title are to be found in the law libraries; indeed, sixty years ago there was not an American text-book on the whole subject of "Damages." And at present, although there are some treatises on special branches of this subject as well as some books of general summary, "no one has, apparently, attempted anything approaching a full and exhaustive treatment of damages for personal injuries." As the immense practical importance of the subject is clear, such a book must be invaluable to the legal profession; and as this importance has been recognized in the law schools by a special course on "Damages," students must often have felt the need of a comprehensive treatise. It is this need which the author wishes to supply.

His task was a great one, for his subject necessarily covers all phases of human action in their infinite diversity and continuous development, and there, to do justice, special cases must be decided according to special circumstances. The title "Damages," itself susceptible to at least three definitions, indicates the uncertainty of much of the subject for which it stands. It is true that the simplification of forms of pleading has made the question of recovery more nearly one of the nature of the wrong and therefore much easier of access; but the wrong itself varies so infinitely that the difficulty of bringing the cases into line and deducing from them a general rule of law will readily be appreciated.

The author has met this difficulty in the first place by a careful arrangement of his book. There is a complete index. The chapter heads indicate precisely what is to be found under them, and the references to paragraph headings show just where it is to be found. The book falls naturally into two parts. The first deals with the substantive law, the second with the procedure relating thereto. The former discusses in logical order the three distinct questions arising in the development of every action for damages, viz: as to the injury, the right to recovery and the measure of recovery. The author discusses general rules and theories with marked ease of style and still with much care and analytical ability. We cannot better recommend this book than by indicating as an example the introductory chapter on "Natural and Proximate Cause." The position and application of the doctrine to the subject is first stated; then follows a defining of the loose terms, such as natural, proximate, probable, immediate, direct, primary, used as descriptive of the "Cause." Next we have the historical origin and rationale of the rule, followed by a mention of the various objections, exceptions or modifications made in different jurisdictions. The illustrating cases are very aptly chosen, and with due regard to any state in which the reader may be practicing. This serves as a very sound introduction to the exhaustive study of the Rule of Cause and Effect which follows.

In his comments on evidence, pleading and practice, the author is very minute and suggestive. It will be of interest to know that this book contains some very practical chapters on the evidence of "Financial and Social Position and Domestic Relations; Subsequent Repairs, Changes and Precautions; Exclamations and Complaints of Suffering." On these and related questions the author has done much original work, for they have never been fully discussed and collected before.

It is not often that a writer of law books leaves the beaten path of argument and authority to gather and arrange a mass of unclassified cases and to report on his original investigations. For this reason this book will be doubly welcome, to the student for its able discussion of theories and doctrines, and to the attorney for its practical foresight, which will enable him to meet many a contingency of litigation.

W. L.